

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

January 25, 2022

Distributing COVID-19 Tests to Vulnerable Workers and Small Businesses to Keep the County Safer At Work

As the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has taken hold in the last month, the need for frequent and rapid COVID-19 testing has increased dramatically. Like personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccines, tests have become the latest example of how inequities in access to a tool to battle the pandemic can exacerbate social and economic divides. Moreover, those without access to tests are often left unable to leave quarantine and return to work, missing vital earnings in the wake of the expiration of COVID-19 sick pay. It is in Los Angeles County’s (County) best interest to equitably distribute rapid tests to high-need communities.

PPE Unite is a National Association of Counties’ (NACO) award-winning program that has successfully distributed more than 51 million units of PPEs to small businesses, non-profit organizations, and social enterprises throughout the County. Overseen by the County’s Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services agency (WDACS), PPE Unite was created as a mechanism for the County to quickly deploy personal protective equipment to small businesses to keep employees safer at work. The largest PPE distribution program of its kind in California, PPE Unite has provided over

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MOTION

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66,000 small businesses with more than 710,000 employee kits to address COVID-19 worker safety challenges. For participating small businesses on the margins, this program has crucially saved at least \$11 million in public health compliance costs when revenue significantly declined, providing a reliable stop-gap source of PPE throughout supply-chain shortages.

With easy scheduling and instructions on its website, PPE Unite offers safe contactless pickups at its warehouse locations and one-day pickup events in hard-to-reach, COVID-19 impacted areas. PPE Unite, supported by WDACS, can leverage this network to reach underserved residents, including our front-line workers and businesses.

With the sharp rise of cases attributed to the Omicron variant, WDACS, along with PPE Unite, have received hundreds of urgent requests for COVID-19 testing kits from various Chamber of Commerce partners and local cities. Moreover, workers have reported not being able to access appropriate testing after being exposed to COVID-19 positive co-workers. This, coupled with small employers' need to access tests to protect their existing workforce, and sustain regular operations, creates a need to increase the supply of tests available to County residents. Both WDACS and the Department of Public Health (DPH) agree that PPE Unite has the needed infrastructure to administer the program and deploy the tests to workers, small employers, and other entities in high need areas with high COVID-19 vulnerability in a timely manner.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to reallocate \$7,000,000 in the Tranche 1 Spending Plan for American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Coronavirus State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending Plan (Spending Plan) approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 27, 2021, to increase the Safer at Work line item from \$500,000 to \$7,500,000. Reallocated funds should be subtracted from the public health emergency line item in the ARP Spending Plan.
2. Approve the attached appropriation budget adjustment that reflects an increase of \$7,000,000 in appropriations in the Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) Final Adopted budget offset by a corresponding increase of \$7,000,000 in Federal revenue from the ARP Act to fund a COVID-19

Testing Kit Distribution Program as part of the Safer at Work line item to provide free testing kits to small businesses and community-/faith-based organizations in high-vulnerability communities; and

3. Authorize and delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS, or his designee(s), in consultation with the CEO and County Counsel, to enter into, execute, amend, and if necessary, terminate, subrecipient agreements, including sole source agreements, or any related agreements, for the Safer at Work program, up to \$7,000,000 for the COVID-19 Testing Kit Distribution Program to immediately support small businesses while prioritizing vulnerable front-line workers.

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(YV)

January 24, 2022

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

**ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE
FY 2021-22
4 - VOTES**

SOURCES		USES	
WDACS - WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT A01-CS-90-90WK-26555-26670 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN INCREASE REVENUE	6,700,000	WDACS - WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT A01-CS-2000-26555-26670 SERVICES & SUPPLIES INCREASE APPROPRIATION	6,700,000
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - ADMIN A01-CS-90-90WK-26560 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN INCREASE REVENUE	300,000	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - ADMIN A01-CS-2000-26560 SERVICES & SUPPLIES INCREASE APPROPRIATION	300,000
SOURCES TOTAL	\$ 7,000,000	USES TOTAL	\$ 7,000,000

JUSTIFICATION

This adjustment reflects an increase of \$7 million in appropriations and federal revenue from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund a COVID-19 Testing Kit Distribution Program to provide free Testing Kits to small businesses and community-/faith-based organization in high vulnerability communities as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

David Seidenfeld Digitally signed by David Seidenfeld
Date: 2022.01.24 18:08:23 -08'00'

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DAVID SEIDENFELD, MANAGER, CEO

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION
Lan Sam Digitally signed by Lan Sam
Date: 2022.01.24 18:17:48 -08'00'

BY _____

DATE **Jan. 24, 2022**

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. **076**

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mason Matthews Digitally signed by Mason Matthews
Date: 2022.01.24 18:42:49 -08'00'

BY _____

DATE **Jan. 24, 2022**